

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
BENNINGTON, VERMONT

*Vermont's Colonial Shrine: Welcoming all to share God's light,  
and proclaiming God's embracing love since 1806*

THE REV. KENNETH A. CLARKE, MINISTER  
GENE MARIE CALLAHAN, ORGANIST

MAY 31, 2020

**PRELUDE** Fantasia Prelude on "Veni Creator" - Dennis Elliot

**OPENING WORDS** (responsive)

This is the day which the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Let love and faithfulness never leave us.

**Let your spirit be close to our heart always.**

**HYMN** *On Pentecost They Gathered* 128

(LYRICS REPRINTED AT THE END OF THE ORDER OF SERVICE)

The hymn contains several references to Acts 2, our text for today. The author, Jane Parker Huber, has written over 100 fresh texts for traditional hymn tunes. The tune is an old German chorale first published in 1693 and later adapted by Felix Mendelssohn for "Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord" in his *Elijah* oratorio.

**OPENING PRAYER** (unison)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
These things we ask in Christ's name, Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND GLORIA PATRI (579)**

**FIRST LESSON** Numbers 11:24-30 p. 114

**HYMN** *Bless the Lord, My Soul and Being* 224  
(verses 1-4)

(LYRICS REPRINTED AT THE END OF THE ORDER OF SERVICE)

Fred Anderson wrote this metrical setting for Psalm 104 in 1986. He is pastor of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York City and has been metering Psalms for 21 years. C. Hubert Parry was a prolific composer in latter 19<sup>th</sup>-century England. The tune, *Rustington*, was named for the town where he lived in Sussex, England towards the end of his life.

**SECOND LESSON** Acts 2:1-21 p. 885

**SERMON** Down to Camp

**HYMN** *Come, O Spirit* 127

(LYRICS REPRINTED AT THE END OF THE ORDER OF SERVICE)

The author, a Presbyterian minister, wrote this hymn when the worship committee of Wabash Valley Presbytery wanted to highlight Pentecost within the presbytery's churches. The tune is from an 1837 book which compiled many unwritten tunes in general use in the Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian traditions.

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE CHURCH** (Visitors are kindly requested to fill out one of the visitor's cards in the pew and put it in the offering plate.)

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** *Come, Holy Spirit* - Flor Peeters

**\*DOXOLOGY (592) AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**CLOSING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER** (debts/debtors) p. 16

**HYMN** *Come Down, O Love Divine* 313

(LYRICS REPRINTED AT THE END OF THE ORDER OF SERVICE)

Bianco da Siena wrote the words in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. He lived in Venice and was a member of an unordained order that followed the rule of St. Augustine. The translation was made by Richard Littledale, an Irish priest, for his 1867 *People's Hymnal*. Ralph Vaughan Williams wrote the tune for this text for the 1906 *The English Hymnal*, which he edited. Vaughan Williams was the most important English composer of his generation.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Celebration* - Charles Callahan

Deacons on call this month are Marsha Pilachowski and Wendy Schmitt.

Worship and life at Old First is changing in response to the need to reduce activity as we work to get through the challenge of the COVID-19 presence in our life. Our prayers and thoughts go to everyone immediately affected and thanks go to all people who work to provide care and supply our needs in this time. An audio version of our weekly worship services can be found on the church's website by clicking on the "Worship" tab and selecting "Worship Here and Now". Or simply paste the following into your computer's browser at the top of the page:

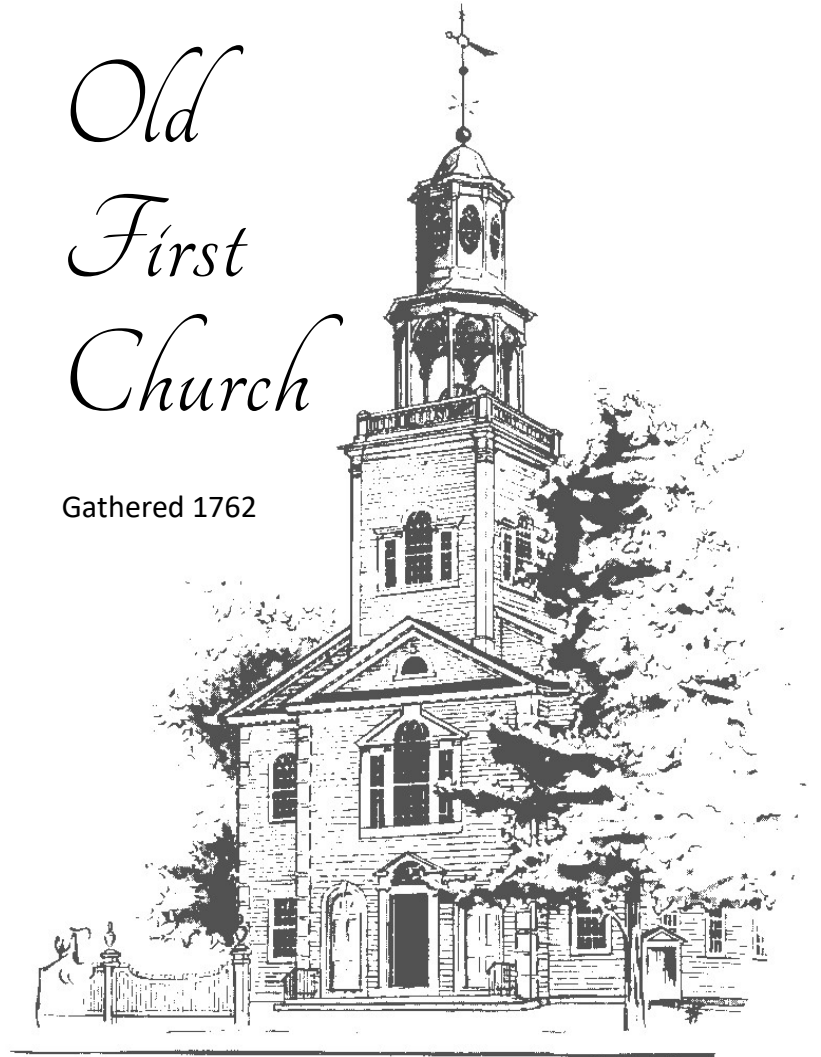
<http://oldfirstchurchbenn.org/worship/worship-here-and-now/>

If this link appears in blue on the device you are using to read this, you can also just "click on the link" and you will be there! The church office has been temporarily moved to the home of our office administrator. Please use email, phone or U.S. Mail for correspondence.

If you are interested in discussing matters of faith and want to inquire about Christian membership in the church, please contact Rev. Clarke. We welcome the chance to have you join us in our historic, but active-in-the-world, community of faith!

# Old First Church

Gathered 1762



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

(OLD FIRST CHURCH)

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### *On Pentecost They Gathered*

1. On Pentecost they gathered  
Quite early in the day,  
A band of Christ's disciples,  
To worship, sing, and pray.  
A mighty wind came blowing,  
Filled all the swirling air,  
And tongues of fire a glowing  
Inspired each person there.
2. The people all around them  
Were startled and amazed  
To understand their language,  
As Christ the Lord they praised.  
What universal message,  
What great good news was here?  
That Christ, once dead, is risen  
To vanquish all our fear.
3. God pours the Holy Spirit  
On all who would believe,  
On women, men, and children  
Who would God's grace receive.  
That Spirit knows no limit,  
Bestowing life and power.  
The church, formed and reforming,  
Responds in every hour.
4. O Spirit, sent from heaven  
On that day long ago,  
Rekindled faith among us  
In all life's ebb and flow.  
O give us ears to listen  
And tongues aflame with praise,  
So folk of every nation  
Glad songs of joy shall raise.

### *Bless the Lord, My Soul and Being*

1. Bless the Lord, my soul and being!  
Lord my God, You have such might,  
Cloaked with honor, grand and glorious,  
You are clothed with purest light.  
Stretching out the heavens like tent cloth,  
You are chambered on the deep.  
Riding on the wings of wind-storm,  
Flame and fire Your bidding keep.
2. Lord, You laid the earth's foundation  
That it would be always sound.  
By the word of Your commanding,  
You set forth each ocean's bound.  
Springs gush forth at Your own bidding,  
Giving drink to every field.  
Bird and beast and all Your creatures  
In that coolness find thirst healed.
3. Grass You cause to grow for cattle  
Plants for us to cultivate.  
Food You bring forth from our labor,  
Wine for joy and bread for plate.  
Trees you give the birds for shelter,  
Mountain rock and cave for beast.  
Sun and moon both mark the seasons,  
In their light we work and feast.
4. Lord, how great are all Your workings,  
Wisdom marks them through and through.  
All the earth is Your possession,  
Great and small belong to You.  
Food You give in each due season,  
At Your hand come all good things.  
By Your Spirit You create us;  
Lord, Your breath renewal brings.

### *Come, O Spirit*

Come, O Spirit, with Your sound like a wind, quick rushing;  
Come from heaven and stir our hearts, each disciple touching!  
Mold our actions to Your will, You our service giving;  
Move within our fellowship, transform now our living!

Come, O Spirit, with Your flame, leaping tongues of fire;  
Come, and with Your glorious light all our thoughts inspire!  
Rest upon each servant's head till each one is speaking  
Of our Christ, the Holy One all the earth is seeking!

Come, O Spirit, fill Your church, making strong our mission;  
Fill Your daughters and Your sons with a mighty vision,  
Till the great and glorious day when the whole creation  
Sings Your praise as Lord and King, giver of salvation!

### *Come Down, O Love Divine*

Come down, O Love divine, Seek out this soul of mine  
And visit it with Your own ador glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,  
And kindle it, Your holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn  
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
And let Your glorious light shine ever on my sight,  
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long  
Shall far out-pass the power of human telling;  
For none can guess God's grace, till love creates a place  
Where in the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

## **Numbers 11:24-30**

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, “My lord Moses, stop them!” But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!” And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

## **Acts 2:1-21**

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging

to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’